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THIS IS THE BEST

WE CAN DO IN DEVISING A UNIQUE SOURCELINE SINCE WE WEREN'T SURE  
WHETHER THIS WAS BROADCAST ON GENERAL WORLD SERVICE OR ON  
SERVICE FOR EAST EUROPEAN CONSUMERS.

BBC WORLD SERVICE (EASTERN BEAM) IN ENGLISH 11 OCTOBER 1985

"U. S. UPS ITS STAKE IN AFGHANISTAN." BY GORDON ADAM

((TEXT)) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON, THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS HAS APPROVED THE SECRET TRANSFER OF BETWEEN TWO AND THREE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS TO HELP AFGHAN GUERRILLAS FIGHTING SOVIET OCCUPATION FORCES IN THEIR COUNTRY. FIFTEEN MONTHS AGO IT WAS WIDELY REPORTED THAT A SIMILAR AMOUNT HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH CIA CHANNELS TO THE AFGHAN MUJAHEDIN. GORDON ADAM OF THE BBC EASTERN SERVICE LOOKS AT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS LATEST SIGN OF INCREASED AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE AFGHAN GUERRILLAS.

IF THE REPORTS ARE ACCURATE, OVER FIVE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS OF AMERICAN TAXPAYERS' MONEY WILL HAVE BEEN EARMARKED FOR AFGHANISTAN IN THE PAST FIFTEEN MONTHS. FURTHERMORE, AID TO THE AFGHAN GUERRILLAS SEEMS SET TO CONTINUE. FOR A GOVERNMENT OF DEEPLY HELD ANTICOMMUNIST VIEWS, AFGHANISTAN REPRESENTS A CLEAR-CUT ISSUE IN WHICH FORCES FIGHTING THE SOVIET ARMY CAN BE BACKED WITHOUT RAISING IN THE MINDS OF CONGRESS THE PAINFUL DILEMMAS WHICH HAVE SO IMPEDED PRESIDENT REAGAN'S MUCH MORE MODEST EFFORTS TO HELP THE CONTRA GUERRILLAS FIGHTING THE LEFTIST SANDINISTA REGIME IN NICARAGUA. IN CONGRESS, AFGHANISTAN IS A CAUSE CELEBRE, AND GALVANISED BY SENATOR GORDON HUMPHRY, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ALSO AGREED THIS YEAR TO SPEND FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS ON HUMANITARIAN AID INSIDE AFGHANISTAN AND TO SET UP RADIO FREE AFGHANISTAN BROADCASTING IN PERSIAN AND PASHTO, ON THE MODEL OF ITS ANTICOMMUNIST BROADCASTS ON RADIO LIBERTY AND RADIO FREE EUROPE.

BUT, POPULAR THOUGH SUCH MOVES MAY BE IN THE UNITED STATES, IT IS QUESTIONABLE HOW MUCH THEY HELP EITHER THE MUJAHEDIN'S MILITARY EFFORTS OR THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE. SOME MILITARY HELP IS CLEARLY GETTING THROUGH TO THE MUJAHEDIN, AND THIS CAN BE SEEN MOST NOTABLY

IN THE INCREASED REPORTED USE OF SOVIET-MADE SAM 7 ANTIAIRCRAFT MISSILES AND THE USE OF SOVIET "STALIN-ORGAN" MULTIBARRELLED ROCKET LAUNCHERS IN THE RECENT MUJAHEDIN BOMBARDMENT OF THE TOWN OF KHOST. BUT VIRTUALLY EVERY WESTERN JOURNALIST VISITING AFGHANISTAN REPORTS SHORTAGES OF SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION IN KEY AREAS. THIS, AND THE WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN PAKISTAN THAT FORTUNES ARE BEING MADE BY MIDDLEMEN INVOLVED IN THE SUPPLY OF SECRET WEAPONS CONSIGNMENTS, SUGGEST THAT MUCH OF THE AMERICAN INVESTMENT IS NOT REACHING ITS DESTINATION. MOST OF THE NEWLY APPROVED AID IS LIKELY TO END IN THE POCKETS OF INTERMEDIARIES UNLESS THE AMERICANS DECIDE TO SEND IN THEIR OWN MILITARY ADVISERS - AS SOME IN THE ADMINISTRATION ARE URGING - TO ATTEMPT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE MORE SOPHISTICATED ARMS IN THE PIPELINE REACH THE MOST EFFECTIVE FIGHTING GROUPS. THIS WOULD RAISE A HOST OF PROBLEMS WITH PAKISTAN, WHICH, KINDFUL OF THE SOVIET FORCES HOVERING CLOSE TO ITS BORDER WITH AFGHANISTAN, IS ALREADY EMBARRASSED BY THE EXTENT OF PAST DISCLOSURES ABOUT AMERICAN CLANDESTINE AID TO THE MUJAHEDIN.

THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT IS UNCOMFORTABLY AWARE THAT THE SOVIET RE-RAIN OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS HAS BEEN THAT THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN IS NOT AN ESSENTIALLY INDIGENOUS REVOLT AGAINST THE SOVIET PRESENCE, BUT THAT IT IS A WAR MASTERMINDED BY THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES, INCLUDING CHINA, TO BRING DOWN THE KABUL GOVERNMENT FOR IDEOLOGICAL REASONS. LAST YEAR'S DISCLOSURE OF AMERICAN CLANDESTINE AID LENDS CREDENCE TO THIS VIEW, AND HAS BEEN SEIZED UPON BY THE AFGHAN AND SOVIET MEDIA WHICH HAVE REPEATED IT ALMOST DAILY TO JUSTIFY THEIR VERSION OF EVENTS. WITH CONSTANT, IF SMALL-SCALE, INCIDENTS ALONG ITS BORDER WITH AFGHANISTAN, THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT CANNOT AFFORD TO JEOPARDIZE THE FINE BALANCE BETWEEN ITS SYMPATHY WITH THE MUJAHEDIN AND ITS FEAR OF SOVIET RETALIATION.

THIS LATEST REPORT OF LARGE-SCALE CLANDESTINE AID TO THE

AFGHAN GUERRILLAS COMES JUST SIX WEEKS BEFORE PRESIDENT REAGAN'S  
SUMMIT MEETING WITH MR GORBACHEV. DIPLOMATICALLY, IT COULD BE SEEN  
AS YET ANOTHER AMERICAN SIGNAL THAT THE SOVIETS WILL HAVE TO PAY AN  
INCREASED COST FOR THEIR CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN.  
HISTORY HAS SHOWN, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS UNLIKELY TO GIVE  
WAY AND REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT UNDER THIS KIND OF PRESSURE.  
THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION ALSO RUNS THE RISK OF FURTHER ALIENATING  
MANY NONALIGNED COUNTRIES, AND ESPECIALLY INDIA, WHO HAVE COME TO  
REGARD AFGHANISTAN AS A PAWN IN EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION. FOR THE  
UN-SPONSORED AFGHANISTAN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, THIS  
SUPERPOWER RIVALRY HAS MADE REACHING SETTLEMENT VERY MUCH MORE  
DIFFICULT. THE KEY TO SOVIET TROOP WITHDRAWALS IS AGREEMENT ON THE  
COMPOSITION AND SECURITY OF THE GOVERNMENT LEFT BEHIND IN KABUL. THE  
NECESSARY DEGREE OF TRUST BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE  
THIS DELICATE OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN LACKING UP TO NOW. WITH THE NEWS OF  
FRESH AMERICAN FUNDS FOR THE MUJAHEDIN, THE BEST THAT CAN PROBABLY  
NOW BE HOPE FOR FROM NEXT MONTH'S SUPERPOWER SUMMIT IS A ROUTINE  
RESTATEMENT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE UN PEACE TALKS, RATHER THAN THE  
POLITICAL IMPETUS WHICH THE PEACE PROCESS BADLY NEEDS.

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